

# THE WASHINGTON TIMES PAGE OF MUSIC FOR MUSIC LOVERS

## TEACHERS COME TO DEFENSE OF SCHOOL MUSIC

Misapprehension of Article by Music Editor Brings Heated Protest.

By JESSIE MACBRIDE.

This is the time where we did not get our babies mixed! But the babies got us mixed!

It's due, too, largely to a case of poor "American" diction.

It's a case, also, of putting several departments of music in Washington in a right light.

The Washington Times has received heated protest and warm praise concerning an article published by the music editor in last Thursday's "Music Page," which shows that the exposition is of current and vital interest.

The article has, in some cases, been misapprehended.

It was an interview, given the music editor by a vocal teacher of Washington, criticizing the singing—by little children in a school building—of songs that he called common and of baneful influence both musically and socially.

The term "degenerating influence," of a song that H. Lewis mistook for "Roll Them Bones" (a "crap" song), was used, with justice had the circumstance existed.

Directors of the program for that recreational evening said the song had been misunderstood, the kiddies sang "Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Gently Down the Stream," an entirely inoffensive song of spring and dreams and harvest.

Mr. Lewis had opened his comment saying: "If the school officials persist in teaching ragtime music to the younger generation, what hope has America in the future as a leader of classic music."

Public School Protest.

This statement, to Dr. Hamlin E. Cogswell, director of music in the public schools, had seemed a direct attack on the music taught there, under his control.

In the editor's estimation, such an event under a school roof, needed a rebuke. It didn't happen—but it had seemed to happen, to a group of musical people.

There is sacred and there is profane music, aside from the words that accompany it. Our kiddies do get too much ragtime. In an article in last Sunday's Times, the new chief of the music division of the Library of Congress, Carl Engel, is quoted as warning against its pernicious influence.

So the Times, with pleasure, takes up the case of three defendants. There is:

1. The case of recreational music that was not what it seemed.
2. The case of music taught in the public schools, which had no part in the event at all, and which—as the Times has always put forth—has stood in the front guard of musical progress.
3. The case of music teachers in Washington, who deserve to be heard, because they labor to inculcate the best in music in the lives of the future Americans.

Dr. Cogswell's Letter.

Dr. Hamlin E. Cogswell writes: Miss Jessie MacBride,

Washington, D. C.

My Dear Miss MacBride: The article on school music in the Times of March 23, has stirred up a great controversy.

I am very sorry that you, who know so well what are my aims for school music, did not emphasize them. You know that I stand for only the best, and that my teachers are with me to a unit.

Now what the recreational music was at the school center mentioned

I do not know nor am I or my music teacher responsible for it, but I do think that the blame for music of "degenerating influence" should be placed squarely where it belongs, and I am looking for you to do this in your paper. "Something light" may be used, of course, and we have that which is light and yet of genuine worth.

If you could have heard the discussion at a meeting called for an exchange of views on this subject, and heard my teachers champion high class music and condemn the cheap in no uncertain terms you would have been delighted, and so would Mr. Lewis.

The music department of the public schools is teaching only the best and deeply regrets the presentation of any except the finest.

Now, please, Miss MacBride (with a capital P) give a good stirring article defending the director and his corps and place the blame for anything less than our standard, where it belongs.

Miss Bentley, my predecessor, knew the worth of good music, and would not any more than I tolerate any such songs as Mr. Lewis says he heard at the school center mentioned.

Sincerely,

HAMLIN COGSWELL.

Another public school teacher, Miss Bernice D. Randall, who is head of the music department at the Wilson Normal School, writes:

"I feel it my duty as a teacher of music in the public schools to answer the destructive criticism of public school music given in your paper of Thursday, March 23. Music supervisors and school officials have certainly no share in cultivating music of a 'degenerating influence.' Nor do the public schools miss one opportunity to acquaint students with the best in music.

"From the kindergarten to the normal school, with which I am connected, the teachers are daily standardizing taste in music through songs appropriate to the child's age, and through Victor records intelligible to the child's mind. At all points in his educational career, the child sings and hears the best.

"Nor is his soul starved for the melodies of Grieg, Franz, Schumann and Brahms. They are still being taught. 'The Two Grenadiers' are still returning to France. No one feels more deeply than Dr. Hamlin E. Cogswell, director of music, the susceptibility of young minds for good or bad, and no one has sought more earnestly to direct these minds in the proper channels of expression.

"The people of Washington have just cause to feel proud of their public school music—content in knowing that this most universal language is finding its expression in the immortal words of spirit and of truth."

BERNICE D. RANDALL.

Enthusiasm for a cause is one of the most encouraging signs of its health and its worth.

Times Prints Programs.

Now as to our recreational music programs. The Times has persistently—whenever space permitted—printed these programs in full.

They speak for themselves. They show that the best talent of Washington is represented on them. There has been a most laudable effort in the city to give freely and of our best.

When the youngsters in the audiences become restless, a few moments are set aside for giving them a share in the program, and then they sing songs they know, in that way getting relaxation. But, as we have explained, the obnoxious song was not sung by them!

Yet the fact remains. The rebuke is justified, though all the defendants are pronounced "not guilty."

It is justified as a warning. The rebuke falls on any possibility of teaching under a school roof—music that is as bad in influence as cheap novels would be in a course of literature.

Care, care for the children—made audible—will make us inquire what the young folks are getting.

If we've created a tempo in a tempo, with a clear record as the result, we have also found out the moral as well as cultural worth of good music, and the enthusiasm with which it is sponsored in the National Capital.

## TIMES' WEEKLY MUSIC GUIDE IS TIME SAVER

Consult Washington's Leading Music Page Before Buying Your Music.

WOODWARD & LOTHROP will soon have a new VICTROLA department that excels anything in the entire East for its sound-proof construction and for the detailed perfection of its equipment.

The present VICTROLA department of this great Washington store is on the fourth floor, at the Eleventh street corner.

The new rooms are now being constructed at the southeast corner on the fourth floor. The twenty booths are being built of hollow tiles, and they are each spacious rooms that are to be furnished with period furniture and with the Victor Talking Machine to harmonize with the room.

There will be a FRENCH room, an ITALIAN room, and the newest thing in nursery designs, a CHILDREN'S room, with music fittings to fit into the nursery idea.

A charming lobby will be very handsomely furnished, and the broad center aisle promises added attractions for musical "atmosphere."

The entire department will be separated from the rest of the store, with a special elevator giving direct access to it.

The new VICTROLA department will not be completed until about the first of June. Meanwhile the Eleventh street corner room is offering one of the largest lists of records to be found in the city. They are seldom out of a desired record.

The "INFLAMMATUS," from Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," by LUCY ISABELLE MARSH, with the Victor Chorus and the Victor Orchestra, is a stirring Easter record. As Miss Marsh sings it, the music holds the uplift and nobility of the Easter story, and with its choir effect in rich body of tone and fine harmony. It has, also, the rare melody of Italian music, and Miss Marsh's fluent execution and sure, true, high voice brings it to a climax of fine tone and exultant impetus in tempo.

KANN'S Suggestions for Lenten music come from Kann's VICTROLA PARLORS, the store where "sealed records are a specialty."

"Les Rameaux," THE PALMS, by Faure, is sung on four VICTOR records by four great artists, with CARUSO heading the list. They have all sung this great song in French—CARUSO, JOURNET, CLEMENT, and PLANCON. Our own REINALD WERRENATH has also made a VICTOR record of "THE PALMS," with "The Lost Chord" on the reverse side.

The two HOMERS—mother and daughter—both of them Louise Homer, have a record of the duet from the "STABAT MATER," the "Gloria" in Latin. Mme. Homer also has made a Lenten record of "He Was Despaired," from "The Messiah."

THE VICTOR ORATORIO CHORUS has recorded, in two parts, the "Seven Last Words of Christ."

EASTERN selections by quartets are "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (Haydn Quartet), with a Trinity Choir selection on the reverse side; and two Trinity Quartet sacred selections in "God So Loved the World" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" on a single record.

LANSBURG & Bro., on Seventh street, are having a sale of recent releases at the "bargain" price of 39 cents.

They also recommend "BANNER RECORDS"—always priced at 49 cents.

Sorority clubs and Fraternity clubs should find these records useful. Any group of people who use records hard and desire only the newest music would do well to become acquainted with "Banner Records." They are not quite as loud as the other records, but with a "loud" needle the results are most satisfactory.

"At 8 o'clock in the Morning" is a Banner Record, with "Love's Ship," a waits, on the reverse side played by the Newport Society Orchestra. The kiddies are keen about it. There are new Irish records, too, in this Banner list, and popular songs.

GEORGE BRONSON sings the "Prologue" from "Pagliacci," on a Banner record, and SYLVIA WELLINGTON the "Caro Nome" from "Rigoletto." Both are double records.

BCHbi-bull? mh mh mh mh mh

"Play Me Something."

AMPCO STUDIO of the Arthur Jordan Piano Company. Through that little live-wire, Marion Reed, at Jordan's, The Times is privileged to answer the daily question in every home: "Play me something!" Here is Miss Reed's answer—for you, in AMPCO records for their Ampico in the Chickering:

JOLLY—

Etude Japonaise.....Feldman

March Eumorgue.....Debussy

Dance of the Gnomes.....Liszt

Country Gardens.....Grieg

QUARTET—

Claire de Lune.....Debussy

Free de la Mer.....Arensky

Serenade.....Stojowsky

Blowzy Hollow.....Lane

VALS IMPROMPTU—

Jeux d'Amour.....Ravel

Etude de Concert.....Kokoski

Etude de Concert.....Starnberg

FROM THE OLD MASTERS—

Chopin's "Nocturne".....Chopin

Bach's "Tocatta".....Bach

Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

DRAMATIC—

Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

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Debussy's "Prelude".....Debussy

## An American Cellist Who Gives Recital Here Next Week



ALDEN FINCKEL, A young cello, of Washington, who is winning his spurs in concert in cities of the East. He will be heard in a recital at the Playhouse on next Wednesday evening at 8:30.

## CONCERTS

Dambos Concert Tonight.

Maurice Dambos, the distinguished Belgian cellist, who is meeting with such marked success in his present concert tour of this country appears here in recital at the Masonic Auditorium this evening at 8:30 o'clock, under the local management of T. Arthur Smith, Inc.

Mr. Dambos' strong points are a fine tone and a magnetic personality which charm his listeners before he plays a tone.

He will use what is considered the finest cello in existence. It is the master work of Nicholas Lupot, who made it at the command of King Louis Philippe in 1822 who gave it to a noted cellist of that day. In the hands of Mr. Dambos, the instrument is made to live and give forth such music that in many European places where he has played the past year, the people were so loath to leave that it was necessary to turn out the lights to make them depart. He purchased the cello during his stay in Europe in 1921.

Tickets may be obtained at the office of T. Arthur Smith, 1306 G street.

Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski conducting, will make its final Washington appearance this season at the National Theater on Tuesday afternoon, at 4:30 o'clock, under the local management of T. Arthur Smith, Inc.

Miss Nina Koshetz, the distinguished Russian soprano, will be the soloist for this fifth concert of the series. This is Miss Koshetz' first season in America, where she has been heard with the Chicago Opera. The program for Tuesday is:

Overture, "The Flying Dutchman" (Wagner); for soprano, the "Letter Scene," from the opera "Eugen Onegin" (Tchaikovsky); Mme. Koshetz; symphony, Mendelssohn's "Scottish" symphony, in A minor; songs, "Melody" (Prokofiev), from "Reverie and Dance," from "Fair of Sorochin" (Moussorgsky); Mme. Koshetz; tone poem, "Tod und Verklarung" (Mahler).

Army Band Concert.

On next Tuesday evening, April 4, the Army Music School Band will give a concert at Central High School auditorium, under W. C. White, warrant officer and principal of music of this important Army Music School that for two years has been stationed at the Washington Barracks.

This will be the first public concert of this band, although they have been prominent in official functions in the city. The school is one for band leaders and for band players, and the best musical talent of the army is recruited to make up the personnel of the band.

For ten years this Army Band School was situated at Governor's Island, N. Y., and Washington is being signally favored at having it in our midst. About a delightful concert on last Tuesday evening at Walter Reed, at which school instructors and senior students wielded the baton.

Ralph Leopold, concert pianist, and brother of Mrs. Newton D. Baker, will be the solo artist. The program will be announced on Sunday.

Finckel Cello Recital.

Alden Finckel, cellist, whose recital at the Playhouse on Wednesday evening, April 5, at 8:30 o'clock, is of particular interest to Washington, will give the following program: Concerto No. 1 (Saint-Saens); "Menuet" (Johann Matheson); "Lento" (Chopin); "Tarantelle" (Boettmann). He will play the elaborate "Variations Symphoniques" of Boettmann, and close his program with a group consisting of "Kol Nidrei" (Bruch); "The Bee" (Schubert); and Hungarian Rhapsody" (Paganini).

Alden Finckel, who is but nineteen, has been two years a student with Alvin Schroeder, the famous cellist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He is a Washington boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Finckel, both well-known musicians of the city, and he began his musical education here at the Washington College of Music.

Tickets are for sale at the office of T. Arthur Smith, Inc., 1306 G street northwest.

## AMONG MUSICIANS

Elizabeth Winston, pianist; Mrs. Gertrude Lyons, soprano; and Frances E. Cole, soprano, were three soloists who by virtue of their lineage were particularly fitted to give the concert of the Connecticut Society at the Hadleigh last week at the monthly meeting of that State organization. Elizabeth Winston is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, of Connecticut, and with her usual brilliant technique she gave a program of Chopin, Liszt, the Schubert-Liszt "Hark, Hark the Lark," Rosenthal's "Papillons," and the "Blue Danube Waltz."

Mrs. Lyons, accompanied by Miss Margaret Morgan, sang a group of real spring songs, "Swallows," by Cowen; "Robin," by Neidlinger; "Owl," by Wells; "Spring's Awakening," by Spross, and "April," by Nevin. Miss Cole, accompanied by Mrs. V. B. Alderman, gave three selections.

Two Tenor Soloists.

William A. Shanahan and T. A. Cantwell, tenors, were heard in a short concert of Irish songs on Friday evening at the Washington Hotel.

Mr. Cantwell gave a group of songs at the Rotary Club luncheon at the Willard last Wednesday. He was assisted at the piano by Mr. Tenley.

For Washington Chapters.

Last Friday evening a concert was given by the Washington chapters of the Friends of Irish Freedom. The program consisted of numbers by Miss Ethel Roddy, soprano; Ambrose Durkin, bass; Thomas A. Cantwell, tenor; Bernard Fitzgerald, tenor; Christopher Tenley, pianist, and a group of dramatic readings by Aloysius Kane. Miss Margaret Breen was the accompanist for the singers.

"Mu Phi" Glee Club.

The newly organized glee club composed of members of the Mu Phi Epsilon Sorority, gave a very odd and instructive program recently presented at the Washington Hotel, and was presented for the Chevy Chase Women's Club last Friday.

Miss Kincer's Pupils.

A number of piano pupils of Miss Lockie Kincer were heard in recital on Saturday evening, March 18, at her resident studio, assisted by Miss Inez Becker, violinist. The program

concluded with a group by Miss Kincer, including "Polonaise" (Chopin), "Impromptu" (Debussy), and "Polichinelle" (Rachmaninoff). Miss Becker gave the violin solos of "Vision" (Drdla), "Old Refrain" (Kreiser), and "The Roseary" (Nevin-Kreiser). The students who played were Thelma Butz, Helen Dugan, Ruth Groff, Helen McGhee, Ruth Miller, Mary Slemmon, Molly Reed, Helen Field, Margaret Angel, Bettie Barcalow, Lyndall Eckert, Josephine Latner, Catherine Todd, Helen Hokinson, Mary Kay, and Master Richard Fletcher.

A Child's Program.

Katherine Lippert, ten-year-old pupil of Katherine Floecker Culbertson, gave a most interesting piano recital at her teacher's studio recently. The little pianist played the Bach Prelude and Fugue, C Major; Mozart Sonata in G, with accompaniment of a second piano; a group with "Butterfly" (Grieg), "Berceuse" (Schytte), "Air de Ballet" (Chaminade), "Characteristic Etude" (Wolff), and "Second Mazurka" (Godard), closing with two movements of the Beethoven fifth symphony, arranged as a duet. Mrs. Hearstall, soprano, was assisting artist.

LYNWOOD FARNUM TO BE HEARD IN RECITAL.

Lynwood Farnum, organist of the Church of the Holy Communion, New York city, will give the third recital of the artist series, under the auspices of the D. C. Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, at Epiphany Church, on Tuesday evening, April 4, at 8:30 o'clock.

Mr. Farnum has the reputation of being one of the finest concert organists in America. He will play: "Toccata of a Gregorian Theme" (Barnes); "Sempere Semplice" (Karg-Elert); Prelude and Fugue, G minor (Dupre); "Riposo" (Rheinberger); "Pantomime" (Jepson); "Divertissement" (Vierne); "Sunrise" (Grieg); "Allegro" from first Trio Sonata (Bach); "Rondo Francese" (Boellmann); "Ave Maria" (Henselt); "Chaconne" (Karg-Elert).

SOME NEW MUSIC HINTS FROM ROBINSON'S SHOP.

Robinson's "New Music Bulletin" for April is just out with many hints for purchasers of the latest hits in

## Belgian Artist Gives Cello Recital Tonight



MAURICE DAMBOS, Celebrated cellist, who is also a pianist of note, will give a cello recital this evening at 8:30 in the Masonic Auditorium. Mr. Dambos has an international reputation as a solo artist and is now on a concert tour of America.

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In music literature they have a number of educational works, and some personal views of the great musicians that humanizes them and brings a personal understanding into the study of the great masters, whose lives are filled with romance as well as struggle.

## 137 TAKE TESTS AS SOLOISTS IN OPERA CHORUS

Remarkable Showing Is Step Forward in Move to Make D. C. Music Center.

When Director Albion held a vocal trial last Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of augmenting the group of soloists in the Washington Opera Chorus, there were 137 names registered in the applications for membership. And of those present, several had to be turned away unheard, for lack of time.

This is a remarkable showing and demonstrates the appreciation of the community of the splendid opportunity offered by this organization, which has been producing grand opera of an increasingly excellent standard during the past four years.

The accredited teachers of the city are giving splendid co-operation to Mr. Albion.

"It means that my pupils will not leave me and go to New York for professional experience," one of the leading teachers commented.

"Every man of us ought to get back of this movement. We know its need and we know that to make Washington a center with acknowledged professional standard is greatly to our advantage," said another teacher, whose name stands high in the musical life of the city.

The opportunity for ensemble and dramatic work, for experience in singing to an orchestra under the baton of an excellent conductor, and the inspiration of supporting artists of the first rank in their general roles is appreciated alike by the teachers and students of the city.

An opera school has been the outgrowth of the opera productions. This brings splendid advantages within reach of the students of the community.

Within the past week three mothers have entered their daughters who expect to have professional careers and have canceled plans for breaking up their homes and going to New York to secure the training desired.

## Godowsky and The Knabe

What an irresistible combination. The wonderful interpretation of this great pianist through the medium of the superb Knabe Piano.

Vincent d'Indy—Richard Strauss—Olga Steeb—these are only a few more of the great numbers of pianists who pay tribute to the wonderful Knabe tone—delicate—sympathetic—and yet capable of effects of wondrous brilliancy and power.

Why not own a Knabe?

The comparatively slight advance in price over the ordinary high-grade instrument seems trifling when you consider the happiness of ownership in a treasure so lasting and beautiful.

Moderate Monthly Payments. **Knabe** Warerooms, Inc. Our Catalog On Request. J.H. Williams Pres.

1330 G St. N. W.

## See this little piano!

Half the size of an ordinary upright—yet with a volume and beauty of tone to rival the larger instrument!

You won't believe it until you've seen the Miessner, "the little piano with the big tone."

It's the ideal instrument for the small home or apartment. Or the large home where an extra piano is desired for playroom, sun porch, etc.

You can get the Miessner as Player or Reproducing Piano if you wish.

Come in and see this charming little instrument. Play it and judge for yourself its wonderful big tone.

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STEINWAY AND OTHER HIGH-GRADE PIANOS

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